

Chatham County Line embarks on a dynamic future

by Julian Sereno

Chatham County Line, your community newspaper, has a new management team. Randy Voller and I are partnering, and he is the Business Manager. He has been in charge of delivering and distributing the paper for all of 2018. He initiated a plan to direct-mail it to targeted areas in Chatham County. As of September, he has also been in charge of printing and advertising. I remain the Editor and Publisher, responsible for content.

Exciting changes are underway. This is the first issue with full color. The print run, 30,000 copies direct-mailed, more than triple the usual, will reach an estimated 66,000 people.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the first issue of this newspaper, then called *Chatham Crossroads*. I've been around as Editor since 2001, as Publisher since 2002. Randy and his wife Lesley have been strong supporters of *Chatham County Line* for more than 10 years. Now his ideas and energy infuse the paper. With his participation, there is no reason the paper won't go for another 20 years, maybe more.

If you want to buy an ad, email Randy at randy@vrclimited.net or chathamcountyline@gmail.com. If you have articles, news items or press releases to submit, email me at editor@chathamcountyline.org.

TO PLACE AN AD, EMAIL:
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chathamcountyline@gmail.com

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OR PRESS RELEASES, EMAIL:**
editor@chathamcountyline.org

**TO SUBMIT EDITORIAL
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Chatham County, we seek your support

by Randy Voller

For years my wife Lesley and I have supported *Chatham County Line* through contributed content and ads that were designed and placed by my wife's graphic design firm, Lesley Landis Designs.

Recently, Julian and I decided to partner in order to keep bringing a positive monthly message to the greater Chatham community.

We have been slowly expanding direct mail distribution up and down the 15-501 corridor, but this month we are distributing over 30,000 papers in and around Chatham County to show what we can do if we get consistent content and advertising from our businesses, institutions and people in and around Chatham County.

We currently publish 10 times a year with double issues in December/January and July/August, but we could consider adding a special spring edition and fall edition as well in order to deliver a timely and special message to the homes and businesses in and around Chatham County.

To do this we need to partner with you.

If you have ideas and/or submissions of content please email Julian at editor@chathamcountyline.org or if you want to promote your business or nonprofit email me at chathamcountyline@gmail.com and we can discuss how to best design a program with Chatham County Line that fits your needs.

R. Voller, 919.949.1274

The Bucket

BY LOU LIPSITZ

Over three years now
and no poems.
I carry around
a bucket
of ice from
the stream up near Roan Mountain.
I heard
this can become
poetry water.
But
it stays frozen.
I carry it down
through the woods
every day
and
pace the city streets
feeling
like a fool -
as if traffic and noise
will cause it to melt.
Can I leave it in your yard?

Mead Day Fills Pittsboro's Beverage District

by Randy Voller

Pittsboro was alive with costumed festival goers at the first "Mead Day" held in the Chatham Beverage District. Lyle Estill of Fair Game Beverage and the driving force behind the biofuels plant and a partner in the new beverage district said about the changes: "We are successfully transitioning our industrial roots into a food and beverage district. Over 1,000 people attended today."

Combined with the thousands who attended "Summerfest" in the Pittsboro's Main Street District, the annual Chatham County Fair, and the upcoming Pittsboro Street Fair on October 27 it appears that the "Circle City" is gearing up to handle and host bigger and more frequent events.

The "beverage district" is a collaboration between Fair Game Beverage, Chatham Cider Works and Starrlight Mead and its members have been eagerly anticipating the upcoming ribbon cutting for Starrlight Mead on Friday, November 9 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 130 Lorax Lane.

"Getting Starrlight Mead up and running is a significant piece to this puzzle" said Jim Crawford who owns and operates Chatham Cider Works with his wife Maureen. "We look forward to working with them and hosting many events with this team next year and beyond."

"Mead Day" drew in visitors from all over North Carolina including Roderick Nehrenz and Danielle Keltner.

"We came from Raleigh and we absolutely love their mead."

Nehrenz has worked Renaissance festivals for over ten years and said "they are one of the most welcoming meaderies", while Keltner shared that "they are very friendly and they know their customers very well. They are involved in their business. We attended a small mead day and we made mead with them."

Costumed supporters of the business, Daymund Fay of High Point and Amanda

Richardson of Raleigh, survived the heat and worked the gates with a smile and good cheer.

Fay is a Mead Club member and has been working events with the owners Ben and Becky for around eight years.

"I found out about them through a group" said Fay.

Inside the gates, Justin Bullock was holding court at the life-sized chess set with friends from the "Lands of Exile", which is live-action role play.

When asked what brought him to Pittsboro Bullock said: "I came for the mead and any chance to wear a costume."

As the day was winding down, Tami Schwerin of the Abundance Foundation was surveying the beauty of the assembled people



Rachel Rooker, Jordan Mullaney, Justin Bullock and Sara Slobodzion all appropriately attired for Mead Day.

and the built environment of the beverage district and was pleased that another safe and friendly Pittsboro event was in the books.

"These are the type of events that help build this town" said Schwerin with a smile as Main Street Pittsboro's Secretary Lesley Landis nodded and added "and these are the kinds of events in and around our downtown that bring people to Pittsboro and help build community and regional connections."

For more information, check out the "Chatham Beverage District" and "Main Street Pittsboro" on Facebook.

Washout Back in My Home Town

by Brenda Linton

Somehow, you think your home town will always be there for you. Unconditionally accepting and ready to welcome you back. Even if you go far away. It's similar to the all-seeing ability intrinsic to our fairies and deities. Your home town has an eye out for you, can follow you around the world, knows where you are on Christmas eve or when you lose a baby tooth. Your home town is omnipresent where you are concerned because, yes, you really are that special.

So, when your home town takes a serious blow, say from an act of God or an explosion or epidemic or a natural disaster such as a hurricane, you can feel dizzy and confused.

And perhaps overly emotional. People say to you, wasn't that your town in the news last night, is your family okay? You burst into tears, wondering am I really that empathetic? You feel compelled to help rescue children and animals, or distribute food and medicine through the Red Cross. You want to get in the car and drive there, forgetting about your job and your mortgage and the people depending on you. None of that matters any more because your home town needs you.

Well, I hate to burst your bubble but it's actually the other way around. You are the needy one. Your town will recover, and the people who chose to stay after high school and create lives there will soldier on. And most of them even understand that, although change is imminent, some of it might be good. But you are frozen in a timeless place where any change is threatening. Because you left. Like the ethereal beauty of a person who dies young, your home town has an allure that cannot be tarred by the passing of years.

I have this colorful refrigerator magnet that says "bloom where you're planted." There are two butterflies dancing around a pair of tan cowgirl boots with yellow and white daisies sprouting out of the tops. When I look at it, I realize my home town is sending me a message. It's saying, "I will always love you, and I am proud of you and of every one of your accomplishments. So, take a deep breath, and go to your exercise class, and cook dinner, and carry on with your life. Because I'll be okay, even if you do these things instead of worrying about me. I am eternal because of your memories."

And so, that's what I'll do. Just as soon as I've had a good cry.

Brenda Linton lives in Pittsboro where she teaches music lessons and works as the music director for the Pittsboro Youth Theater. She is a native of Washington, NC.

CHATHAM
County Line

"where all voices are heard"

ESTABLISHED IN 1999
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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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